



LANDCARE EDUCATION



Principles of a no dig garden

A no – dig vegetable garden is basically a garden above ground made of layers of organic matter that eventually rot down to produce a nutrient rich, living soil where one can establish an ongoing seasonal supply of vegetables.



Preparing a no-dig Vegie Garden

- 1) Mark out a space – 2 m by 1 m
- 2) Put in the border-not treated pine planks as they have arsenic in them. Use cedar or straw bales as a border if the garden is less permanent.
- 3) If on a non porous surface like concrete, then put down a layer of blue metal /gravel that is mixed with pine needles. On porous base, this is not needed.
- 4) Put down layers of newspaper, then wet them. (Weed mat)
- 5) Put straw mulch on top in thick layers. This makes up the bulk of the material.

- 6) Put a layer of animal manure on top...chicken, horse, cow. Sprinkle on the straw to help break it down.
- 7) Synthetics like blood and bone, dynamic lifter could be added here – only two adult hand fulls.....but otherwise, keep it organic.
- 8) Add a layer of sugar cane mulch. (or pea straw....this has more weeds but peas add nitrogen to the soil and you do have peas growing)
- 9) Mushroom mulch could be added at this time.
- 10) Compost layer is then added-Humus Plus. It is delicate enough for seedlings to go straight into.
- 11) Could mix with loamy garden soil or potting mix. Water in the soil and compost
- 13) Plant seedlings in small mounds of compost. Water them before taking out of the punnets so they are not shocked...water them once in the ground for same reason, so they do not become stressed.
- 14) Use peas- a good autumn grown crop. Peas have to be staked. Or use spring onions in clumps.
- 15) Dig a donut shaped “well” around the seedlings to catch the water.
- 16) Don't plant seedling too deep as they will develop collar rot (around lower stem)
- 17) After the first crop has been in the straw for 4 months, start laying the layers (not the newspaper layers) again and plant winter crops. Use worm castings as fertiliser, 1 part castings, 9 parts water.

